

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Schechter for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the interview held on February 13, 2006. At that time, Applicants' representative discussed the differences between the claimed composite display device and the display devices described in the references. In particular, Applicants' representative provided a demonstration of the claimed invention, which included a picture of the prototype of Applicants' composite display device and three separate movie image files of the device (viewable in Windows Media Player). A copy of the compact disc containing the picture and movie image files was given to the Examiner. Applicant's representative also discussed a proposed amendment to claim 1, in view of the demonstration of the claimed invention. The following remarks further expands on the discussion with the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended, as shown above, to recite a composite display device that includes, *inter alia*:

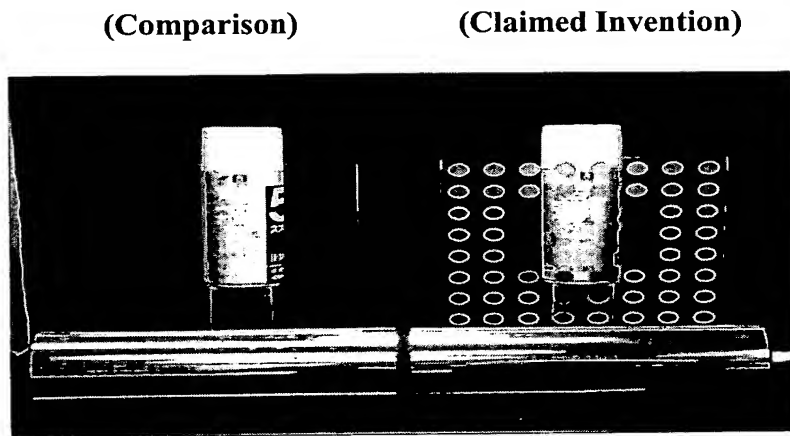
a first display member and a second display member disposed between the first display member and an observation point,

wherein the second display member comprises an electro-optical element, which transmits light under application of no voltage and scatters light under application of a voltage, and the light transmittance under application of no voltage is at least 80%;

wherein the electro-optical element comprises a pair of substrates with transparent electrodes and a composite layer interposed therebetween, and the composite layer comprises a liquid crystal/cured resin composite comprising liquid crystal and a cured product of a curable compound soluble to the liquid crystal; [and]

wherein a portion of the electro-optical element, excluding a connecting portion to an external circuit formed in a peripheral portion of the electro-optical element, is transparent . . . [.]

The claimed composite display device is shown in the following non-limiting picture image (prototype) of the invention, which distinguishes the device over the cited references of record:



The device on the left side (comparison) in the screen uses normal sodalime glass having a thickness of 2 mm, while the device on the right side in the screen uses a liquid crystal cell (claimed invention) having a thickness of 2.2 mm. The spray can shown in the background of each device represents an ordinary object that can be seen due to the transparency of the glass and liquid crystal cell.

As shown above, in prototype of the claimed invention, the device has a structure wherein a peripheral portion of the electro-optical element, excluding a connecting portion to an external circuit formed in the peripheral portion of the electro-optical element, is transparent. Round dots are shown in the screen of the prototype, in which wires for driving the round dots in the screen are provided on a lower portion of the electro-optical element.

Applicants note that in one of the three sets of movie image files shown to and provided for the Examiner at the interview, the round dots are turned on and off slightly at random. In another movie file, the rounds dots are turned on and off in each block. In the remaining movie file, characters are made into tikers to run right to left, displaying the phrase "LOOK Beyond." It can be understood from the movie image files that the claimed

invention can display a variably moveable image, having a higher transparency than the glass plate on the left side, which is disposed for comparison. The claimed invention is closest to the technical limit in terms of the presentation of a moveable image in a transparent state.

Further, Applicants note that the glass plate that is located on the left side in both the above picture and in each of the movie files for comparison, is a normal transparent glass plate, i.e., sodalime glass as mentioned above. The reasons why the glass plate is located for comparison is to clarify that the claimed invention displays information in a moveable way, having a transparency nearly equal to a transparent object, which is normally considered as being transparent in the world. In addition, Applicants note that while objects can have a limited transparency, the claimed invention is patentable because of being capable of displaying information in a variably moveable way (by a combination of transmission mode and scattering mode of LCD in one embodiment according to the present invention), maintaining a degree of transparency closest to the upper limit recited in the claims.

Such a device is not described or suggested by the cited references of record.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 8, and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Asakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,598) in view of Date et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,104), in view of Nishiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,385), and further in view of Niiyama et al. (WO 2000/23589); claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 are rejected further in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,650); claim 2 is rejection further in view of Hirai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,103,327); and claims 5 and 6 are rejected further in view of Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,862) are respectfully traversed.

As discussed throughout pages 3-7 of the Final Office Action, the cited references do not describe several features of the claimed invention. In particular, as admitted by the Examiner on page 5 of the Final Office Action at lines 19-20, the Asakawa et al. reference “does not disclose details of the non-pixel (peripheral portion) of the display,” i.e., canceled

claim 8. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to include such details in a device described in the Asakawa et al. reference, "motivated by the desire not to cover up unnecessarily the image from the first display member (to avoid blocking the external light in Fig. 8)." (Page 5, line 22 through page 6, line 2 of the Final Office Action.). However, Applicants submit that the Asakawa et al. reference makes no such suggestion. Other than hindsight of the claimed invention, based on the present specification, there is no evidence or suggestion in the reference that the object of its disclosure is to include a transparent portion of the electro-optical element. Moreover, there is no demonstration of the claimed invention, in any of the figures the Asakawa et al. reference, in which a device displays information in a moveable way having the claimed transparency. Further, there is no indication or evidence that any of the other cited references cures these deficiencies. Therefore, the claimed invention, as demonstrated above and presently claimed, is unobvious over the combined cited references of record.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such is earnestly solicited.

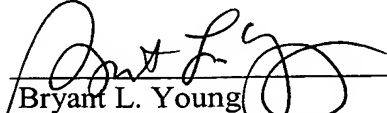
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)


Bryant L. Young
Registration No. 49,073